XXVIII. 1. FELIS LEOPARDUS: THE LEOPARD.
2. FELIS JUBATA: THE HUNTING PARD.
PLATE XXVIII.

1. FELIS LEOPARDUS.—THE LEOPARD.

*Tiger of the Cape Colonists.*

**Generic Character.**—Adult male about two feet seven inches high at the shoulder, and seven feet six inches in extreme length. Claws retractile, chin, neck, breast, belly, and inside of extremities, mottled black and white. The rest varying in different specimens between yellow, tawny, fulvous, and reddish brown, irregularly marked with open black rings, *ex form de rosea*, which vary greatly in number, size, and appearance, in different sexes, and at different ages or seasons, and contract into full spots about the head, neck, and limbs.* Tail about two feet eight inches long, spotted and ringed with black. Ears round. Whiskers strong and white. Eyes yellow.

Female similar, but smaller. Monogamous or solitary. Inhabits thick covers and rocky situations both within and without the Colony.

2. FELIS JUBATA.—THE HUNTING PARD.

*Luipaard of the Cape Colonists. 'Nquane of the Bechuana.*

**Generic Character.**—Size of both sexes about that of a greyhound. Body slender; legs very long; claws semi-retractile. Belly and insides of extremities white; the rest pale yellow, studded with small round black spots, larger on the back and outside of the thighs. Hair of the upper part of the neck and withers, rather long, forming a small mane. A black stripe on the ears, and another from the corners of the eyes to the angle of the mouth. Tail annulated with black and white bars, and tipped with white.

Inhabits open rocky situations. Not very common.

* It is difficult to find any two individuals of this species which exactly resemble each other. The ground colour is subject to considerable variation, not only in the different sexes, but even in the same sex at different ages and at different times of the year. The spots are also found to vary in appearance and number, and the tail has seldom the colours arranged in the same way in any two specimens. The females as met with in South Africa, is commonly about a third smaller than the male, with the ground colour generally darker, at least upon the back and upper portions of the sides. The occurrence of such discrepancies may probably have given rise to the establishment of more species than actually exist in nature, and when the Felis Leopardus, F. Pardus, and F. Pardus Antiquorum, are compared together with attention, and the variations to which the first is known to be subject, are kept in view, it will probably be admitted that there are not three species, but one species. *Dr. Swain.*
CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE LEOPARD, AND HUNTING PARD.

"By lightning in the forest green,
'Tis strong and old and wide.

To seek the thicket's closest shade,
'Tis strong and old and wide.

By the swift torrent's shelly brink,
'Tis strong and old and wide.

The lion knows me in his path,
'Tis strong and old and wide.

Or by the mountain's side,
'Tis strong and old and wide.

The speckled Pard
'Tis strong and old and wide.

The spotted prowler of the Mountainiers
'Tis strong and old and wide.

The mounted man
'Tis strong and old and wide.

To seek the thresher's closest state,
'Tis strong and old and wide.

Whose ring as he bumped past with legs and arms going, whither he sped in so desperate a hurry, we were informed, "to Gerard Reinet in order to fetch Doctor Krebbs to Graaf Reinet, whereas the life of the young boor in a clumsy attempt upon the life of the animal's "spotted prowler of the travelling merchant" has no existence in Africa, but the Leopard, as well as the Cheeta or Hunting Pard, are generally distributed, nor do they differ in any respect, that I could discover, from their Asiatic brethren. Both species occur chiefly in mountainous districts, where they prey upon the Coney, or rock rabbit of the Dutch zoologists, upon Baboons, and such of the antelopine race as they are able to surprise. Common throughout the Colony, the Leopard is much dreaded by the farmers on account of the ravages he commits amid their sheep, and during the breeding season, also among the foals and calves. His every motion easy and flexile in the highest degree, he bounds among the rocks and woods with an agility truly amazing; unless he be backed by some dozen of stones and timber, upon the principle of the rat-trap, is sentenced without trial by Judge or Jury to be worried by every dog that the country round can contribute; for no Dutchman choosing to hazard an attack upon the intruder, when at large, unless he be backed by some dozen canine coadjutors, it is of course desirable to give these latter a foretaste of the animal's tactics. Accidents in the chase are frequent in those districts which abound most in this species, and during my short sojourn in the Colony, I heard of the occurrence of more than one. On our way across the Suurbergens, we encountered a Hottentot, wearing a battered hat almost smothered in ostrich plumes, and riding as if for a wager against time. Inquiring as he bumped past with legs and arms going, whither he sped in so desperate a hurry, we were informed, "to Gerard Reinet in order to fetch Doctor Krebbs to Graaf Reinet, whereas the life of the young boor in a clumsy attempt upon the life of the "spotted prowler of the wild," had in truth been so severely dealt with, that he eventually lost his own.

One Leopard only suffered at the hands of our party, and his demise, in a hole, being simultaneous with the discharge of the first rifle, I may be allowed to draw upon tradition for an anecdote better illustrative of the sport. "Two African farmers," writes Pringle, "returning from hunting the Hartebeest, happened to rove a Leopard in a mountainous ravine on the frontier, and forthwith gave him chase. The animal endeavoured to effect his escape by clambering up a steep precipice, but being hotly pressed and wounded, presently turned upon his pursuers with the frantic ferocity peculiar to the species in such emergencies. Springing first on the man who had fired at him, he tore him from his horse to the ground, bit him through the shoulder, and severely lacerated his face with his claws. The other, observing the disastrous situation of his comrade,
they spare either pains or filth to perfect the disgusting unacquainted with agriculture, the most wealthy of the wandering outcasts can boast of no property beyond his rude weapons, religion, only a faint glimmering ray of instinct guides their benighted path; whilst possessed of neither flocks nor herds, and abiding chiefly in holes and cranmes, an asylum in the pathless desert, they subsist precariously from day to day upon bulbous roots, reptiles, and the exterior with which Dame Nature has invested them. Driven by the gradual encroachments over the head in detached tufts, together with prominences of fat, jutting out in parts of scale of creation is barely one grade removed from rather the advantage of the genuine Bushman, who most decidedly forms the connecting link with fondly pressing them to their maternal bosoms with an

off trooped the party in all directions—those of the 'vrouws' that happened to be mammas, snatching up their lovely babes, domestic scenes, which made us

him, fully the size of a Newfoundland dog, who was strutting about erect, laying down the law upon the abstruse science of

gnmace. The second missive happened however to upset one of their elders, an enormous 'man
dreaded, she would stab him with her knife, had actually torn the scalp over her eyes. In this frightful position, the hunter grappled with his savage antagonist, and both struggling for the mastery, away they rolled together down a steep declivity. The whole was but the work of an instant, and ere the man who had been abandoned could start upon his feet or resume his weapon, the combatants were tumbling one over the other in their descent. Releasing his gun, he rushed forward to save the life of his companion, but it was too late. The Leopard had seized the wretched victim by the windpipe, and so fearfully mangled him, that death was inevitable—nor had his severely wounded comrade more than the melancholy satisfaction of completing the destruction of the feline foe, already exhausted with loss of blood from divers deep wounds inflicted by the knife of the expiring huntsman."

The only Hunting Pard seen during our expedition, was detected by my compassion at the foot of the Cashan mountains in the very act of tearing out the recking entrails of a Water-buck. The animal differs in no respect from the Cheetos so commonly trained in the East to hunt the black antelope of the plains; and although not very abundant, is found throughout the Amazooloo country. Moselekatse's state apo is, entirely composed of tails of the Feline, exhibited a large proportion borrowed from the 'Nywa, while the skins sent by the hands of 'Um Nombute together with other costly gifts from his illustrious Master, belonged also to this species, and were crowded with round black dots in place of open rosettes. Although the air and manner of the Jaheta are unquestionably those of the cat, it doubtless forms the link with the canine group. Slender and elastic in build, and high on its attenuated legs, it presents the fine drawn figure of the greyhound, wearing a feline head and tail, the latter appendage being however extremely bushy towards the extremity. The claws are semi-retractile only, and although the wiry limbs are fitted for the strong muscular exertion required by the miraculous vigour and velocity of the animal's bounds, which impart a lightning-like speed that can laugh at the fleetest antelope, and for a few hundred yards, far exceeds that of the swiftest race horse, they are yet altogether deficient in that remarkable weight and substance which render so formidable a pat even, from the paw of the true Leopard. Both these species are the deadly enemies of the pig-faced Baboon,* large colonies of which people the rugged regions of Southern Africa. Great, hairy, athletic villains, forming the outposts of some mountain garrison, often advanced towards our party with an inquisitive look, and deliberately seated themselves on the rocks above us, as if debating over the propriety of what they were evidently pleased to consider a trespass upon their legitimate domain. Their inhospitable treatment obliging us on one occasion to make an example for public edification, we answered the hoarse challenge of an insolent detachment, with two rifle balls. Numbers assembled round the spot where the first had struck, scraping off the lead with their finger nails, and analyzing it with ludicrous gestures and grimace. The second missive happened however to upset one of their elders, an enormous 'man' as the Hottentots termed him, fully the size of a Newfoundland dog, who was strutting about erect, laying down the law upon the abstruse science of projectiles—and who, to judge from his venerable appearance, toothless gums, and white whiskers, must have been at least a great grandsire. This national calamity did not fail to cause incredible consternation, and there ensued many affecting do-

The destruction of the feline foe, already exhausted with loss of blood from divers deep wounds inflicted by the knife of the expiring huntsman."

In point of personal attractions, the pig-faced Baboon, odious and disgusting though he be, has, if any thing, perhaps rather the advantage of the genuine Bushman, who most decidedly forms the connecting link with Homo sapiens, but in the scale of creation is barely one grade removed from "the beasts that perish.″ Mange, bow-legged, and ill-made,

the stature of these wild aborigines rarely exceeds four feet. High cheek bones, blear eyes, crisp and coarse wool disposed over the head in detached tufts, together with prominences of fat, jutting out in parts of the body where they prove the least ornamental, render the pigmies sufficiently hideous; nor do they spare either pains or filth to perfect the disgusting exterior with which Dame Nature has invested them. Driven by the gradual encroachments of the European Colonists to seek an asylum in the pathless desert, they subsist precariously from day to day upon bulbous roots, reptiles, and the larva of ants, abiding chiefly in holes and crannies,

Unhappiest among the nations of the earth—brevity of futurity, and forgetful of the past, without either laws, arts, or religion, only a faint glimmering ray of instinct guides their benighted path; whilst possessed of neither flocks nor herds, and unacquainted with agriculture, the most wealthy of the wandering outcasts can boast of no property beyond his rude weapons, and his starving dog—his hand being raised against every man, as is every man's hand against him.
The traveller might almost pass from end to end of a country infested by these troglodyte imps, without even suspecting that it was inhabited, were it not for occasional serious depredations committed upon his property. Although the men could sometimes be perceived scampering like so many Tom Thumbs towards their mountain fastnesses, or warily reconnoitring our cavalcade from some craggy summit, such is their general distrust of visitors, and of a troop of horsemen in the plain more especially, that they could seldom be induced to hazard an interview. During the night, their watchfires often burned brightly on the surrounding hills, and it was no uncommon event to come upon a nest of women encamped near some stagnant pool. The foppiers usually approached with great familiarity, patting their shrivelled stomachs in token of their palpable emptiness, and importing for tobacco, which luxury was invariably doled out to them by inch. But it was written on the page of our destiny that our intercourse with these "daughters of the desert" should bring upon us foul disaster. Almost within sight of the Colonial hills, we halted one evening during our return pilgrimage, in the midst of a wide plain, whence arose an isolated tumulus in the figure of an Egyptian pyramid. Among some bluff rocks about its base, a knot of the witches held their orgies, and scarcely were the teams unyoked, before we were waited upon by a nymph whose foot measured barely four inches in length, and whose native charms, enhanced by copious sugscent of red clay and fat, completely turned the heads of the Hotentotes, that of the gallant Andries in particular. This Cinderella, who was followed by five wrinkled bags bringing fuel and wild roots for barter, gave us to understand in the mellifluous Dutch tongue, of which she was perfect mistress, that she had recently absconded from a farmer residing in the Sneuwerbergen, whose slave she had been from infancy; and after receiving a suitable bribe of tobacco, she obligingly directed us to a dirty pool at some distance, whither the thirsty oxen were immediately driven to water. The unfortunate animals, having fasted the preceding day and night, were then left to graze in a verdant hollow, whence it did not appear probable that they would stay; but about midnight, the roar of a lion being followed by a general rush towards the waggons, Andries, who stood next on the roster for duty, was appointed to keep watch. Spent with fatigue, and possessing withal a most gentlemanly abhorrence of anything like trouble, the worthy did not long preserve his vigil, and as a natural consequence of his drowsiness, at break of day not an ox was to be seen. This being an event of very common occurrence, created small uneasiness, nor would it in all probability have boded much, had the culprit, in lieu of dallying with the pretty Bushgirl, attuned for his past misdemeanors by a suitable display of activity. But although the syren soon contrived to gull him with the assurance that she had seen the missing cattle hard by only a few minutes before, all that day, and a part of the next, were passed in a state of feverish anxiety, and abortive attempts to recover the absentees—some one of the many of our scouts who had been dispatched on the trail, dropping in occasionally with a blank face, and the information of his having also failed. At last it was ascertained that the whole drove had gone off at a gallop several miles towards some distant hills, and a conviction that they must have been chased either by lions or Bushmen, imparted to our situation an aspect so lowering, that I determined at once to proceed in person to the rescue. Accompanied by Piet, and provided with rations for two days, I had cantered less than half way towards the hills, when Andries and Cobus, who had been left to carry on the tracks, were desirous plying the lash, and approaching at speed, with the dismal tidings that our herd was in the custody of a troop of Bushmen occupying the summit of the nearest eminence, whence one of the pigmies in broken Dutch had challenged the gallant equestrians to do them battle. Cobus, who the morning before, when he dreamed not of the real state of affairs, had ridden forth gascconading of his prowess in arms, now repeated several times emphatically that the contemptible spokesman had actually defied him in terms derogating from his valor. "Here," said he, "here stand your axes; come up if you're a man, come! take them, ye boltoons, an' ye dare!" Yet although mounted, and abundantly equipped with ammunition, these halting white-livered villains did not blush to acknowledge that their personal fears had induced them to decline the invitation:

"But to avoid the Bas's pursuit,
With spearing got their cattle to,
And till all four were out of sight,
And danger too, we're looked behind."

Neither was it now possible to persuade them to turn back with me; the enemy, they averred, being so exceedingly numerous, and encamped in so strong a position, that nothing could be attempted without a much larger force. "Nen," quoth Cobus, urging on his steed in the direction of our camp, "neen, ik vil niet. Ik is for de Boschmans bung."* Here then, like sailors who have foundered upon a rock when within sight of their destined haven, were we, after weathering many a storm, and safely accomplishing the most hazardous portion of our journey, left at last a wreck in the desert. The vindictive and improvident character of the Troglodytes, aptly surnamed "the ox-eters," rendered it but too probable that the whole of our unfortunate beasts had already been sacrificed to their malice, and to their ogre-like appetites, but the day was at all events too far spent to admit of our disturbing their revels before dark, and the night being moonless, it was necessary that our attack should be delayed until the following morning. Nor did it appear unlikely that a party of the marauders might be lurking in the hill, ready to fall upon the wagons during the anticipated absence of the owners; for the hateful squaws, with the flint at their head, had deserted their abode late the preceding day—a filthy arena, fortified by masses of rock heaped together by the hand of nature, and overgrown with wild olives, being now inhabited by

* Afrikaans
none save meagre curs, which had been left by the vindictive sprites, to guard from the assaults of vultures the garbage and putrid skins with which the trees were festooned. After much deliberation, therefore, it was resolved to leave Class and Frederick, two perfect old women, who confessed their inability to fight, together with the two domestics, whose black beards, to say nothing of the broken muskets with which they were armed, were calculated to instil terror into the stoutest heart—starting ourselves with the other five Hottentots in the dead of night, in order, if possible, to avoid creating suspicion of our departure. All the preliminaries of a Bushman hunt thus skilfully arranged, the best horses were selected and fastened to the wagons, and one hundred rounds of ball cartridge having been served out to each of the little band, we retired to rest, leaving the chronometer in charge of Cour de Lion, with instructions to observe his wonted vigilance, and keeping both his eyes steadily fixed upon the hands, not fail to arouse us when they pointed at the hour of twelve.

I was however still broad awake, conjecturing the successes of our projected Commando, when the watchful valet thrust his well-furnished chin under the canvas curtain of the wagons, and in a tremulous voice proclaimed that it was high time to be up and doing. With the design of inspiring chivalrous sentiments, a dragoon of ancient spirits was forthwith issued to each Hottentot knight-errant, and not a syllable having been spoken above a whisper, the skeleton steeds were silently capriciously, and we commenced our stealthy march towards the enemy's position,

"Most mighty hunters, for our prey was near."

The night was cold and clear, and withal gloriously starlight: and it was in truth a godly sight to behold the dusky band of gay cavaliers, girded every one about with his furniture of war, and carrying a heavy carbine on his shoulder, pricking jauntily over the plain. The distance of the Bushman castle being not less than eighteen miles, it was requisite, in order to unceremoniously obtrude, bounded panic-stricken across our path; and spectral Gnoos, galloping inquisitively up at intervals, frightened, and we commenced our stealthy march towards the enemy's position,

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hold their carnival over the half-devoured dead, but were far too busy even to bark at our intrusion; whilst torpid vultures
deserted to such a size that they could with difficulty hop out of our way, were perched like harpies upon the surrounding
rocks.

It was by this time broad daylight. The blue mountain peaks to the southward arose like islands above the sea of mist
which floated over the intervening valley, and as the sun's genial influence gradually raised the white veil, were each converted
into an altar whence a cloud of incense ascended towards heaven. To our delight a few of the oxen being now perceived
standing in a cleugh at the foot of the hill, a party was immediately detached to take possession of them. Seventeen drooping
wretches, with glazed eyes and fallen crests, were here huddled together, some shivering in the last agonies of death, and
others with staring coats barely able to rise. In addition to sundry wounds which had been inflicted by our merciless and
malicious foes whilst urging them across the plain, the unfortunate animals had recently received many cold-blooded gashes,
bestowed apparently with the design of rendering them unserviceable to ourselves. Maddened with rage at the heart-rending
prospect before us, again and again did we search every chink and rifted den, and unweariedly did we cast about upon the
hard soil for the trail of the marauders. "Grim satyr-faced baboons" railed hoarsely at us from their rocky clefts, and to
which side soever we turned, the slope of the hill was strewed with mouldering human bones; but after the closest scrutiny,
no object could be discovered upon which we might wreak our vengeance. A Rheebok, disturbed by our matin approach,
had unfortunately bounded through the encampment, and given the alarm to the "dwellers with owls and bats," who, though
doubtless spectators of all that we were doing, had effectually concealed themselves from view; and after the strictest scrutiny
nine tracks only could be discovered. Of these six belonged to females, and one was that of our bewitching acquaintance!
Barely four inches in length, but yet fully developed, there could be no mistaking her footmark; and whilst not a doubt now
remained that Cinderella and her elfin colleagues had from our very first arrival been aiding and abetting the "pirates of the
desert" to our ruin, it became equally evident that our doughty followers must have fled—not from the overwhelming host
which their heated imaginations had conjured into existence, but from the empty challenge of a woman!